



# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

## Mayoral Proclamation

### *NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY*

**WHEREAS,** in an average year, 724 people die by guns in Maryland; of these, 446 are homicides; and

**WHEREAS,** Black people in Maryland are 17 times more likely than white people to die by gun homicide; and

**WHEREAS,** mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their residents safe; and

**WHEREAS,** gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in urban gun violence; and

**WHEREAS,** in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize her 24th birthday, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton, other victims of gun violence, and the loved ones of those victims; and

**WHEREAS,** the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS,** by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,** on behalf of the Council, residents, and staff, proclaim the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Takoma Park and encourage all residents to wear orange and support efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

*Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2021.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Stewart", is written over a horizontal line.

**Kate Stewart**  
**Mayor**